



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

4 MARCH 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Barstow – Man Arrested on Suspicion of Starting Six Fires

(U) A man was arrested on suspicion of starting six predawn fires yesterday in Barstow, authorities said. Edward Marquez, a 24-year-old resident of Barstow, was arrested by Barstow Police Department (BPD) officials, who suspect him of starting the blazes. Officers conducted investigations of all the fire scenes and located physical evidence at three, which placed Marquez at those locations at the time of the fires, the BPD reported.

SOURCE: 3 March 2022, [Victorville Daily Press](#)

(U) Los Angeles – Former TSA Agent Arrested for Trying to Smuggle Meth at LAX

(U) A former Transportation Security Administration officer was arrested Wednesday and charged with one count of attempting to distribute methamphetamine after sting operations at Los Angeles International Airport, authorities said. In two incidents in 2020, Michael Williams received fake methamphetamine from an informant who was working with the federal government and agreed to deliver the packages to an accomplice in a restroom on the secure side of the LAX terminal, prosecutors said. He did not know the accomplice was an undercover federal agent. Williams was paid \$8,000 for smuggling two packages of what he thought was meth through security checkpoints by using his unscreened access to LAX as a TSA officer, according to the criminal complaint. Authorities conducting the undercover operations had suspected Williams was helping to smuggle drugs through the airport.

SOURCE: 2 March 2022, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Treasury Warns Crypto Firms on Russia Cybersecurity Threat

(U) Washington – The US Treasury Department has reached out to cryptocurrency companies about their cybersecurity controls amid concerns that Russia could wage retaliatory cyberattacks in response to Western sanctions. The United States and its allies have unleashed a slew of sanctions targeting Russia's banks, state-owned entities, and elites, among others, following the country's invasion of Ukraine. Governments have warned for weeks that Russia or its allies could carry out cyberattacks in retribution for sanctions, leading banks to increase monitoring, scenario-planning and line up extra staff in case hostile activity surges. In a sign US regulators see the ballooning cryptocurrency industry as a growing source of systemic risk, US Treasury officials have also been in discussions with cryptocurrency exchanges and trade groups to ensure US digital assets are safe.

SOURCE: 3 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US Secret Service Arrest Men Armed with Assault Rifle

(U) Washington – US Secret Service officers yesterday took two men into custody from a car in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood and removed what seemed to be an assault-style rifle from the vehicle, a Reuters witness said. A witness said the officers also pulled what appeared to be body armor components from the car. The vehicle was a black four-door Ford sedan with Indiana plates that said Marine Corps Veteran. Media Sources reported that the two arrested men told police they had

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driven from Indiana to volunteer to fight in the war in Ukraine. The spot from where they were arrested was near the Ukrainian embassy in Georgetown. A Secret Service spokesperson said that the two individuals were "acting suspiciously" near the vehicle in the area of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, Northwest, and were arrested for possession of illegal weapons.

SOURCE: 3 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Nevada – Man Held in Hookah Lounge Shooting Killing

(U) New York City – A man jailed on murder and attempted murder charges in a weekend shooting at a crowded hookah lounge that left one man dead and 13 people injured told a Las Vegas judge yesterday that he was shot multiple times during the incident. Lee Frank Wilson, 44, a prior felon with what the judge called a "significant" criminal history, remained seated in a wheelchair for his arraignment on 13 felony charges. Police have said additional arrests are expected in what authorities characterized as an exchange of gunfire involving multiple shooters about 3:15 a.m. Saturday during at a private party at the lounge a few blocks from the Las Vegas Strip.

SOURCE: 3 March 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mexico – Authorities Find Three Million Ammunition Rounds in Bust

(U) Mexico City – The Mexican army and National Guard said yesterday they found almost 3 million rounds of ammunition and at least 16 fully automatic, belt-fed machine guns in raids this week on several houses in the northern border state of Sonora. The Defense Department said the seizure was the biggest haul of illegal ammunition in recent memory in Mexico. The ammo, more than enough to supply a battalion-size force, was found in the city of Navojoa during raids Tuesday and Wednesday. Navojoa is a crossroads town in the southern part of Sonora several hundred miles from the US border.

SOURCE: 3 March 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Pakistan – Mosque Bombing Kills at Least 45

(U) Mogadishu – A powerful bomb exploded inside a Shiite Muslim Mosque in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar today, killing at least 45 worshippers and wounding some 65 others, many of them critically, police said. Peshawar Police Chief Muhammed Ejaz Khan said the violence started when two armed attackers opened fire on police outside the mosque in Peshawar's old city. One attacker and one policeman were killed in the gunfight, and another police official was wounded. The remaining attacker then ran inside the mosque and detonated a bomb. Local police official Waheed Khan said the explosion occurred as worshippers had gathered in the Kucha Risaldar Mosque for Friday prayers. The death toll will likely rise as many of the wounded are in critical condition, he added.

SOURCE: 4 March 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.